REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were pending in the application prior to the present amendment.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended.

Claims 13-16 have been added.

Thus, Claims 1-16 will be pending in the application after entry of the present amendment.

Art Rejections

Claims 1, 5, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(a) as being anticipated by Brunner et al. (USPN 6,369,830). Claims 2, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brunner et al. (USPN 6,369,830) in view of the on-line publication entitled "Advanced Graphics Programming Techniques Using Open GL" by McReynolds et al. Claims 3, 4, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brunner et al. (USPN 6,369,830) in view of Tang et al. (US Patent Publication No. 2003/0160789). Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brunner et al. (USPN 6,369,830) in view of Tang et al. (US Patent Publication No. 2003/0160789), and further in view of Marino (US Patent Publication No. 2003/0137523). These rejections are respectfully traversed based on the following reasoning.

Brunner et al. (hereinafter referred to simply as "Brunner") discloses a system and method for rendering translucent layers. Figure 6 describes a process for mixing the color of pixels corresponding to a single pixel position. (Col. 5, lines 40-43) (Col. 5, lines 60-65) At Col. 6, lines 12-13, Brunner teaches that "The steps of FIG. 6 may be repeated for each pixel in the image, as needed. Pixels may be processed in any order." Thus, according to the methodology of Brunner, layer merging is the inner loop and pixel position movement is the outer loop.

In contrast, claim 1 recites:

"A system comprising: an accumulation buffer; an image buffer; and a mixing unit configured to read a first stream of image pixels from the image buffer, read a second stream of pixels from the accumulation buffer, blend each image pixel with the corresponding accumulation buffer pixel based on an alpha value provided with the image pixel, and thus, generate a third stream of output pixels, wherein the third stream of output pixels are transferred to the accumulation buffer."

This union of features is not taught or suggested in any of the cited references. In particular, claim 1 recites the blending of (a) a first stream of image pixels obtained from the image buffer and (b) a second stream of pixels read from the accumulation buffer. Brunner teaches away from this recitation because Brunner requires the merging of layers as the inner processing loop as evidenced above.

Thus, claim 1 and its dependents are patentably distinguished over the cited references at least for the reasons given above. Claims 7 and 11 recite features similar to claim 1. Thus, claims 7 and 11, and their respective dependents, are patentably distinguished over the cited references based on similar reasoning.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5681-14000/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

☐ Request for Approval of Drawing Changes

☒ Notice of Change of Address

☐ Check in the amount of $ for fees (   ).

☐ Other:

                                        Respectfully submitted,

                                        Mark K. Brightwell

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